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Columbia University collection of Frederick Rolfe papers 4079824

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Rolfe, Frederick, 1860-1913
Title:	Columbia University collection of Frederick Rolfe papers
ID:	4079824
ID:	MS#1081
Date [inclusive]:	1895-1986
Physical Description:	1 linear feet 2 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	A collection of materials by and about the nineteenth century English writer and eccentric Frederick Rolfe (also known as Baron Corvo), assembled by the Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Columbia University collection of Frederick Rolfe papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Frederick William Rolfe, whose pen name was Baron Corvo, authored numerous books and stories. Amongst the most famous are the Toto stories, HADRIAN THE SEVENTH, called by some the greatest ecclesiastical novel ever to be written, and the masterpiece THE DESIRE AND PURSUIT OF THE WHOLE. To say that Rolfe was at times eccentric, acerbic and petulant is understatement, but he was also an excellent story teller, conversationalist and amateur athlete. His life of trials and tribulations ended in 1913, when he died in Venice at the age of 53.

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Summary

Series I is primarily correspondence between Frederick William Rolfe and John Lane, whose Bodley Head publishing house published many of the leading writers of the 1890s. Most of the correspondence was published in *WITHOUT PREJUDICE: ONE HUNDRED LETTERS FROM FREDERICK WILLIAM ROLFE (BARON CORVO) TO JOHN LANE*. Folders containing Rolfe letters to Lane, which were not published in that work, are noted as such. The collection also contains letters written by Rolfe to Grant Richards, H. J. Jenkins, Frederic Chapman, C.B. D'Arcy, Edward Slaughter, and Hubert Bland. The majority of the letters pertain to the publishing of Rolfe's translation of the *RUBAIYAT*. One original Rolfe manuscript, a 1907 dedication to Innocent the Great, is also included.

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Summary

Series II contains correspondence among collectors, mostly to Donald G. Brien, about their Rolfe collections and the life and works of Rolfe. Among these correspondents are David Roth, A.J.A. Symons, Julian Symons, Donald Weeks, and Cecil Woolf. These letters date from between 1940 and 1961. Roth's letters, written between 1952 and 1956, discuss his Martyr Worthy collection of Frederick Rolfe papers, which were acquired by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library in 1984. The series also contains several folders of Miriam Benkovitz's notes and drafts for her biography of Rolfe, which was published in 1977, and reproductions of photographs by Rolfe.

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Summary

The collection was previously called the Frederick Rolfe papers. The name was changed to more clearly differentiate it from other assembled collections of Frederick Rolfe materials at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and to reflect that it was assembled by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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Arrangement

Arranged into two series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2018-05-24 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers: Source of acquisition--various funds. Method of acquisition--purchase; Date of acquisition--09/30/92. Accession number--M-92-09-30.

Custodial History

The collection was acquired by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library through gifts and purchases from several sources, beginning in the late 1970s. The first group of materials acquired was Donald G. Brien's correspondence with Rolfe collectors. In 1986, Miriam Benkovitz contributed two Rolfe letters to Hubert Bland and one manuscript, along with several folders of her notes and drafts for her biography of Rolfe, and reproductions of photographs by Rolfe. The photographs were used in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library's 1986 Rolfe exhibition. The final group of materials, the Rolfe letters to John Lane, Grant Richards, H. J. Jenkins, Frederic Chapman, C.B. D'Arcy, and Edward Slaughter, was purchased in 1992.

Processing Information

The collection was formerly called the Frederick Rolfe papers. Its name was changed in May 2018 in order to differentiate it from the other two assembled collections of Frederick Rolfe materials at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, to clarify that it was assembled by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and to comply with DACS 2.0 rules.

Processing Information

A cataloging error identified a group of Rolfe collectors' letters, mostly to Donald G. Brien, as being components of the Stuart B. Schimmel collection of Frederick Rolfe papers (MS #1081). Those materials are in fact components of this collection.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by HR, BRC, HEW, and JSM. Finding aid written by CLB in May 2018.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Selected Related Material

[Stuart B. Schimmel collection of Frederick Rolfe papers](#), Another collection of Frederick Rolfe manuscripts and related materials at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, this one assembled by the book collector Stuart B. Schimmel.

Selected Related Material

[David Roth Martyr Worthy collection of Frederick William Rolfe papers](#), The Rare Book and Manuscript Library's most extensive collection of Frederick Rolfe materials, assembled by the English book collector David Roth and named after the Hampshire village in which he lived.

Selected Related Material

[Miriam J. Benkovitz papers](#), Benkovitz, a Frederick Rolfe biographer, book collector, and English professor at Skidmore College, donated some of the Rolfe materials incorporated into this collection. Further materials related to her biography of Rolfe are located in the Benkovitz papers.

Selected Related Material

[Ned Edward Hoopes papers](#), Hoopes was another Frederick Rolfe biographer; his papers include notes and other materials related to that work.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Book collectors
- English literature -- 19th century
- Publishers and publishing
- Rolfe, Frederick, 1860-1913
- Lane, John, 1854-1925
- Benkovitz, Miriam J.
- Symons, A. J. A (Alphonse James Albert), 1900-1941
- Richards, Grant, 1872-1948
- Chapman, Frederic, 1823-1895
- Slaughter, Edward

- Roth, David
- Brien, Donald G.

Collection Inventory

Series I: Frederick William Rolfe manuscripts, 1895-1907

Title/Description	Instances
Frederick Rolfe letters to John Lane, 1896-1906	box 1
Frederick Rolfe letter to Frederic Chapman, [19xx] May 21	box 1
Frederick Rolfe letter to C. B. D'Arcy, 1895 November 13	box 1
Frederick Rolfe letter to Hubert Bland, 1907 March 25	box 2
Frederick Rolfe letter to Hubert Bland, 1907 September 6	box 2
Frederick Rolfe dedication to <i>Innocent the Great</i> , 1907	box 2

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Series II: Collector correspondence and exhibition materials, 1940-1986

Title/Description	Instances
Argus Book Shop/Ben Abramson letter to Donald Brien about Frederick Rolfe manuscript, "The Bull Against the Enemy of the Anglican Race," for sale, 1940 November 22	box 2
Harvard College Library/William A. Jackson letters to Donald Brien about Frederick Rolfe manuscripts at Harvard, 1954 April 5	box 2
David Roth letters to Donald Brien about his Martyr Worthy collection, 1952-1956	box 2
A. J. A. Symons and Wilbur Stone correspondence about Symons' Frederick Rolfe collection and the loss of a Frederick Rolfe manuscript sent by Symons to Stone via mail, 1928-1929	box 2
A. J. A. Symons and Donald Brien correspondence about First Edition Club and Frederick Rolfe translation of <i>The Songs of Meleager</i> , published by First Edition Club in 1937, 1935-1937	box 2
Julian Symons (brother of A. J. A.) letters to Donald Brien about A. J. A. Symons' collection of 98 letters to/from Frederick Rolfe during his time at Holywell, 1946 May-October	box 2

Julian Symons letter to Lance Sieveking about loss of Donald Brien's address, 1946 October 24	box 2
Donald Weeks letters to Donald Brien about Weeks' Frederick Rolfe collecting and others' Frederick Rolfe collections, 1956-1966	box 2
Cecil Woolf letter to Donald Brien about Frederick Rolfe autographs sent for centenary exhibition, 1961 February 6	box 2
Miriam Benkovitz notes and drafts on Frederick Rolfe, before 1986	box 2
Reproductions of photographs by Frederick Rolfe used in RBML exhibition, 1986	box 2

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